EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the Contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security in times of crisis {COM(2021) 689 final}.

The Communication forms part of the Farm to Fork Strategy under the European Green Deal. It aims to ensure a sufficient and varied supply of safe, nutritious, affordable and sustainable food to Union citizens at all times.

The Commission acknowledges the position of the Senát, namely its opposition to new obligations on the Member States or creating additional excessive administrative burden and its warning that the Commission ought not to interfere in crisis management and in the system of State Reserves of the EU Member States.

The Commission had previously also taken note of the conclusions of the Council of the European Union on the contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security in times of crisis as approved by ministers on 13 December 2021. The conclusions underline 'the need to respect national and EU competences and to build on as well as strengthen appropriate existing EU mechanisms, without duplication and overlapping' and they reiterate 'that the subsidiarity principle and Member State specificities should be taken into account in the organisation of contingency planning at national and European levels'. They stress 'the need to avoid increased administrative burden'. The Commission is aware of the need to respect the subsidiarity principle while at the same time ensuring that appropriate coordination can take place.

Miloš VYSTRČIL
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Maroš Šefčovič   *Janusz Wojciechowski*
Vice-President   *Member of the Commission*